

DPRK TRAVEL GUIDE



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The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** is one of the least visited and least understood countries on Earth. It has a political system that focuses on self-reliance, Juche, and contact with the outside world is extremely limited.

Its mysteriousness, its unique system, together with the sheer lack of western influence and prevalence of political propaganda throughout all aspects of life, are what make the DPRK such a fascinating destination.

At **KTG®** we specialise in organising a variety of trips to the DPRK that allow people discover different aspects of the last vestige of the Cold War. Please read this brochure to have a greater understanding of tourism in the DPRK. For more detailed information please check our [website](#).

Group Tours

Joining one of our group tours is the most economical way of visiting the DPRK with KTG. Our group sizes tend to be **small**, with an average of 7/8 people including our Western staff member. We believe that this is essential in allowing our travellers to **know our local guides**



Pleasant Surprise

Children on a school trip in North Hwanghae Province are pleasantly surprised at the sight of a foreigner.

better and **have greater flexibility** when in the country, something we feel is not feasible with large groups of or 25 or 30 people.

One of our main goals is to **maximise contact with locals**. Having worked with our Korean partners for almost a decade and having gone in the country on countless trips has enabled us to establish excellent relationships with the Korean guides we work with.

We have group tours scheduled all year round and can provide guides speaking different languages if required. For more details on our scheduled group tours please visit our [KTG Group Tours](#) section.



Juche (주체)

Juche is the national ideology of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). It was created by **President Kim Il Sung** and focuses on self-reliance.

This philosophy was first mentioned in 1955, then in 1965 President Kim Il Sung made a speech in Indonesia presenting the idea to the international community and directing it to developing nations. Juche in fact goes beyond the mere idea of self-dependence and President Kim Il Sung defined it is the "independence in politics, self-reliance in the economy, self-defence in the military".

Despite its national characteristics, this philosophy was also presented as a solution to developing countries. International seminars held by the DPRK government have taken place since 1977.

The word 주체 (Juche) can be read on the Juche Tower.

At an early stage after its foundation, Marxism-Leninism was embraced in the DPRK. However, President Kim Il Sung did not want any dependence on the two major communist giants that surrounded the DPRK; the USSR and China. This philosophy was first seen as a creative application of Marxism-Leninism and gradually gained importance in becoming the major line of thought of the country. The Juche philosophy also has a strong nationalist feeling to it which you will be able to encounter first hand in North Korea.



Independent Tours

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Independent Tours

Independent tours are ideal for those who have specific dates in mind or who have a particular group of people they would like to travel with. Travellers can design their own itinerary and visit any place open to tourism by the DPRK authorities. We offer three different options for our independent tours.

Budget Travel

Accommodation will be in the equivalent of 3* hotels (a different hotel grading system is used in North Korea). In order to further reduce your trip cost you can enter and exit the DPRK by train instead of flying. Please contact us for more details

Standard Travel

Accommodation will be in the equivalent of 4*. Please check our Pyongyang Hotels section form more information.

Luxury Travel

Customers will travel around the country in the most luxurious style possible. They fly Business Class, travel around in the most luxurious vehicles and stay in 5* hotels throughout the country. Meals are at the most exclusive locations and seats for events will be reserved in the best areas. Please note that the quality of the services

provided by guides is by no means affected by the type of independent tour you take. We have worked with our Korean partners for many years now and the **top guides** help us lead both our independent and group tours.





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Specialty Tours

Specialty Tours focus on providing independent groups trips related to their **specific fields of interest**. Examples are **study programs** where travellers have the chance to visit several educational institutions such Kim Il Sung University and other educational facilities and learn about the country's politics.

Other examples are **historical tours** where participants visit ancient sites and relics such as the **UNESCO World Heritage Koguryo Tombs**.

Below: 2014 World Cup Qualifier Match held in Pyongyang on November 15th 2011 (DPRK 1 - Japan 0).

Sports trips are also available (e.g. participating in football, hockey and golf **tournaments**, attending sports events, etc). If you represent any association or group that may be interested in any type of specialty tour, please do not hesitate to contact us for details.

There has been an increase in the tourism offer in the DPRK and we frequently meet with our partners in Pyongyang to come up with **new ideas and forms of tourism**. If you have a specific field of interest do please let us know!

You can run the full 42k marathon, half marathon (21k) or the Amateur Marathon (10k).

Starting from **Kim Il Sung Stadium** with thousands of locals cheering you on and then having the chance to explore the city by foot is an unforgettable experience and far too hard to put in to words in our brochure!

Please check our [Pyongyang Marathon section](#) for more information, pictures and videos!

Pyongyang Marathon



The **International Mangongydae Prize Marathon** has been opened to foreign amateur runners since 2013. The Pyongyang International Marathon is recognised by the IAAF.



Introduction 평양

Meaning "flat land", Pyongyang is the capital city of DPRK and home to the country's most renowned monuments and sites. We use the capital as a base for trips in the city and in the surrounding regions, though we usually also stay outside of the capital. Pyongyang is also referred to as Ryugyong (류경) meaning "Capital of Willows."

Below is a summary of some of the main places in Pyongyang. Please note that we can arrange trips anywhere in the DPRK which is opened to travellers and that this section just lists some of these places.

Mansudae Grand Monuments - located on Mansudae Hill, these two giant bronze statues of the Leaders President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il with sculptural figures of soldiers on each side is one of our first stops in DPRK.

Kumsusan Memorial Palace of the Sun - highly respected place in the DPRK, it is where the Leaders President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il remain in state. Formal attire is required.

Mangyondae Native House - The birthplace of President Kim Il Sung. We can visit the house and drink some fresh water from the well located there.

Workers' Party Foundation Monument - 50 metre monuments depicting the Workers' Party of Korea's symbol; a hammer, sickle and brush. Mass Dances tend to take place here on national holidays.

Juche Tower - 170 metres high monument, we can go up 150 metres (the flame is 20 metres high) and have panoramic views of the whole city.

Kim Il Sung Square - located in the heart of Pyongyang, it is where military parades and mass rallies are held. It has the portraits of the Leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.





The Grand People's Study House - educational facility holding over 30 million books. It offers stunning views of Kim Il Sung Square as it is located right by it.

Chollima Statue - the winged horse represents the Chollima Policy used by the DPRK to rapidly reconstruct the country after the Korean War.

Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery - located in the outskirts of Pyongyang it shows bronze busts dedicated to national DPRK heroes who dedicated their lives to liberating the country.

Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum - rebuilt in 2013, this huge museum has original weapons used in the Korean War and very detailedly explains the DPRK's version of the war.

USS Pueblo - American ship captured in 1968. It is now located in the War Museum. The US crew were held for 11 months in the DPRK and then released them though the ship has remained there for almost 5 decades as a trophy.

Pyongyang Metro - explore Pyongyang 100 metres underground. The deepest metro in the world's depth is only matched by the beauty of its mosaics and gigantic chandeliers. We offer extended rides here.

Arch of Triumph - larger than its Parisian cousin, the dates marked on it (1925-1945) mark the return of the Leader President Kim Il Sung after 20 years abroad spent in the anti-Japanese struggle.

Children's Palace - extra-curricular activity centre for children. We can see some extremely talented children put on truly impressive shows. There are two of these in Pyongyang; The Mansudae Children's Palace and The Pyongyang Children's Palace.

Kimilsungia-Kimjungilia Flower Exhibition Centre - very busy on national holidays, especially those of the birthdays of the leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. These flowers were named after the leaders and are exposed here in different ways by workplaces in DPRK.

Kaesong Evening Amusement Park - funfair located near the Arch of Triumph. We tend to go here on national holidays after dinner to see and join in with locals having a night of fun.

Film Studios - where DPRK movies are filmed. If lucky we can see a movie being made on the spot, if not we can walk around the sets and even reenact scenes from ancient Korea.

Pyongyang Folklore Park - enormous park opened in 2012. It explains Korea's history from pre-historic times to the present. Extremely accurately built to scale temples, tombs and homes portray this. The detail in which modern monuments and buildings have been built make it hard for one to distinguish real from fake by simply looking at a picture.



Pyongyang Zoo - the largest in the DPRK.

Pyongyang Maternity Hospital - a doctor will show us around the hospital's facilities.

Korean Traditional Medicine Hospital - see how traditional natural medicine is used in DPRK.

Tomb of King Tangun - just outside of Pyongyang, in one of the capital's four suburban counties, it is the burial site of the founder of the first Korean Kingdom and his wife.



Ostrich Farm - located in the outskirts of Pyongyang. We can tour around the facilities and taste some dishes made of ostrich meat. There is also a section of artwork made out of the bird's eggs.

National Preservation Hall - inaugurated in 2012, it holds thousands of precious gifts given from Koreans from all over the peninsula and abroad to the leaders of the DPRK.

National Institute of Embroidery - handcraft sewn artwork. May of the pieces look like paintings from a distance. We can see the staff working on their masterpieces. It also offers close-up views of the Ryugyong Hotel.

Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall - showing ideological, technical and cultural revolutionary achievements, this centre has a planetarium and is used for the Pyongyang Trade Fair.



Taedongang Combined Fruit Farm - chance to walk around the fields and see the vast agricultural extension. There is too a shop where literally all the products derive from apples (including shampoo).

3 Charter National Reunification Monument - it shows to giant marble statues of two women representing the principles of the National Reunification of Korea.

Friendship Tower - built to commemorate China's help in the Korean War. Its interior has wall paintings depicting Chinese and Koreans in the war.

Liberation Tower - located outside of Moran Park, it marks the USSR helping liberate Korea from Japan.

Party Foundation Museum - building where the Workers' Party of Korea was established by President Kim Il Sung. It is located in the central district of Pyongyang.

Golden Lane Bowling Alley - usually quite busy with locals. Apart from bowling you will be able to play pool and some retro arcade video games.

Shooting range - located in the sports village of Pyongyang. Recently married couples come here to celebrate their weddings. You can shoot real hand-guns, cross bows, bow and arrow or an interactive computer screen.

Munsu Waterpark - the indoor facilities ensure that you are able to enjoy the slides and wave pool all year round. There are several restaurants, bars and a coffee shop inside.



Hotels in Korea are divided into different categories. Those deemed as Deluxe have various facilities such as bars, swimming pool, karaoke rooms, international tv, etc. We use these in our group tours. You can read some basic information here regarding the hotels. Please go to our Pyongyang Hotels section on our website for a detailed description and pictures of each hotel www.north-Korea-travel.com/pyongyang-hotels.html. First and second class hotels (used for our **ultra budget private trips**) offer comfortable conditions with hot water in the mornings and evenings which is when you will be in the hotel.

Deluxe Hotels

Yanggakdo Hotel - 47 floor hotel located on the Yanggak Islet in the Taedong River. It has international channels and a rotating restaurant with views of the whole of Pyongyang.

Koryo Hotel - Located by the capital's train station, it consists of two connected 45 floor twin towers.

Potonggang Hotel - 9 floor hotel located by the Potong River. Ideal for those looking for a quite place to stay.

First Class Hotels

Ryanggang Hotel - located in the sports village of Pyongyang, it has 11 floors and a rotating restaurant as well as a bar and sauna.

Sosan Hotel - 30 storey hotel located across from the Ryanggang Hotel. Views offered of several sports training grounds. Sports teams also stay here now and again. It was refurbished in 2015.

Chongnyon (Youth Hotel) - centrally located just across a residential area. There is a fast-food restaurant next to it and the Air China ticketing offices are located there. It has an outdoor pool.

Second Class Hotels

Changgwangsan Hotel - 18 storey hotel located near the Ragkwon Department Store, it is a two minute walk away from the Air Koryo offices. It is in the city centre just across from the Ice Rink.

Haebangsang Hotel - if luxury is not a priority and if you are interested in meeting people who carry out business in North Korea, this centrally located hotel may be an option for you to consider.



Most restaurants in Korea offer traditional Korean dishes, though we have observed over the past few years an increase of restaurants offering foreign food options.

Restaurants

KITC Number One Restaurant - we usually have our welcome dinner here.

KITC Number Two Restaurant - just opened in 2012, we will have lunch here once. You can choose to have rice or Pyongyang cold noodles as your staple dish. We have had great reviews from our travellers regarding the noodles.

Pyongyang Number One BBQ Restaurant - most of our tours end with a farewell dinner here served with the finest duck in Pyongyang and North Korean Soju.

Chongryu Hotpot Restaurant - travellers have the chance to cook their own food using small individual stoves. Our guides will tell us the order in which we put the food in the pot to boil. The place is also famous for its Swiss bread rolls and Austrian schnapps.

Okryu Restaurant - huge restaurant that looks like a museum from the outside, this place is extremely popular amongst Koreans and serves cold noodles.

Pizza Restaurant - the cooks were actually trained in Italy for 3 months. Serving fine crust pizza, pasta and wine, this place offers an alternative to Korean food. Quite popular amongst locals and there is usually a piano and singing live performance in Italian.

Hamburger Restaurant at the Chongnyon Hotel (Youth Hotel) - serves waffles and delicious (though small) burgers. Breaks here can be arranged.

Ostrich Farm - there is the option of trying some ostrich meat after walking around the farm premises.

Lamb Barbecue Restaurant - tasty lamb skewers and very friendly staff. This restaurant tends not to be too busy.

Yanggakdo Hotel 47th Floor - all hotels have restaurants. We highlight the Yanggakdo's rotating restaurant where buffet lunch is sometimes arranged allowing us to enjoy panoramic views of the capital city while enjoying some local dishes and drinking some Taedonggang Beer.





Coffee Shops

Whereas you can buy instant coffee at any hotel in Pyongyang (a cup costing €1 usually), there are several coffee shops in the capital city of DPRK serving freshly brewed coffee.

Helmut Sachers Kaffee - located by Kim Il Sung Square, this Austrian coffee shop is a joint venture. The coffee is excellent and served with a piece of cake. We have had excellent reviews from Austrian travellers going here. If you would like a coffee break by Kim Il Sung Square and with views of the Juche Tower across the Taedong River, then this is the place to go. There is a small supermarket next to it.

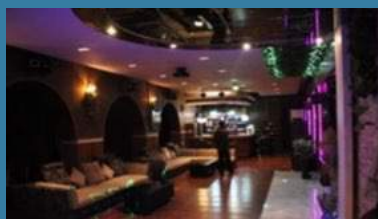
Pyolmori coffee shop - near the Koryo Hotel, this small cozy Swiss coffee shop reminds one of a 1950s joint. It has a bar too.

Nightlife & Bars

Hotels have bars where we usually meet and chat after a long day of travel. The hotels we use for our group tours have **several bars** and **karaoke rooms**. We usually stay at the Yanngakdo Hotel which has a brewery bar in the lobby, several bars in the basement and the rotating restaurant on the 47th floor. Below is a list of other places you can go to have a drink in the evenings.

The Diplomats' Club - near the Juche Tower, it has a swimming pool, several bars and karaoke rooms. It is a good place to bump into, as the name hints, diplomats based in Pyongyang, though it tends not to be too busy and is not always opened. A wide range of imported drinks are offered.

Mini Brewery Bar & Paradise Brewery - good way to refresh yourself after a long day's travel, locals also hang out at these bars.



Eastern Region 동부

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Introduction

With an estimated population of 750.000, Hamhung is the second largest city in the DPRK. Tours for Westerners in this industrial city only started taking place in 2010, though travellers from the former Eastern Block and China have been going there for many years before.

Mount Tonghung

This site offers fantastic views of the city and the neighbouring region. It has a bronze statue of a younger President Kim Il Sung which is frequented by couples as part of their wedding ceremony.

Kuchon Pavilion

Former watch tower and war command post built in the Koryo Dynasty in the 12th Century. Given the views of the area many children come here to paint and draw.

Grand Theatre

Enormous theatre, shown in our header image above.

House of Culture

Small building in the downtown area of the city.

Home of Ri Song-Gym

This is the home of the former general of the Koryo Dynasty who overthrew it and founded the Choson Dynasty. It is located in the outskirts of Hamhung, near the coast in a factory area.

Hungnam Fertiliser Factory

A visit here offers travellers a rare chance of seeing a chemical factory in DPRK. We can explore around the installations and see how the factory operates.

Tongbong Cooperative Farm

Not actually located in Hamhung itself, but in the city's outskirts, we usually arrange a visit here either after before arriving in Hamhung or when leaving the city. We can check a local farmer's home as well as some classes in the kindergarten school attended by the farmers' children.

Majon Beach

We can stay here overnight by the seafront and enjoy a clam BBQ.



Introduction

Capital of Kangwon Province, Wonsan is a major port city in DPRK. Thousands of Koreans returned from Japan to DPRK via this city in the 1960s and 1970s. The drive from Pyongyang takes around 4 hours, though we usually have a 30 minute break on the way. This ride is an interesting one as it will allow us drive from one side of the DPRK to the other, exploring smaller cities and counties on the way.

Travelling to this beach city surrounded by green hills will allow us meet and interact with Koreans at the beach.

Local Port

Close by the Central Square, a visit here will allow us see locals fishing as well as a variety of large North Korean ships.

Central Square

Lively part of the city where families gather and where there are usually many children skating. You can see an image of square at the header of this section.

Songdowon Beach

Very busy in the summer. Locals hang out here and have clam barbecues. We are of course welcome to join in. It is a good chance to interact with Koreans.

Jandok Islet

After having passed Songdowon we can go up this islet that offers impressive views of the whole seafront of Wonsan; the ships at the port, the beach and city's high-rise buildings surrounded by lush green hills.

Agricultural University

Located in the outskirts of town, we will drive by several rice paddies and fields before arriving here. This university was attended by top agronomists in the DPRK.

Songdowon Children's Camp

Great chance to see the local kids enjoy their summer holidays.



Ullim Waterfalls

Ullim (울림) means echo in Korean. These falls are located in a beautifully hidden area that was discovered by KPA soldiers in 2001. We arrange a trip here when leaving Wonsan.

Train Station

Train station where President Kim Il Sung took the train to Pyongyang after the Liberation of Korea.

Guest House

An accurate model of the guesthouse where President Kim Il Sung stayed before taking the train to Pyongyang.





Introduction

Kumgangsan means **Diamond Mountain**, but the name of this area actually varies depending on the season of the year.

Located towards the east coast of DPRK it offers some of the country's most spectacular natural sceneries and proves to be a sanctuary for lovers of outdoor activities and of natural beauty.

South Korean tourists used to visit this part of the country until the year 2008 and Westerners have been able to go from the northern part of the Korean peninsula since 2010.

The region is divided into **Outer Kumgang, Inner Kumgang & Sea Kumgang**.

The Kuryong Falls

One of the most famous waterfalls in the whole of the DPRK and a highlight of a trip to Kumgang. We arrange **hikes** here and have the chance to see other waterfalls and natural pools in the area. This impressive waterfall is located in Outer Kumgang.

Sangpal Pools

There is a Korean legend that says that fairies from heaven descended here.

Kuryong Falls

Samil Lagoon

One of the most beautiful areas of the eastern part of Korea, it is the deepest lagoon in the country with its depth surpassing 13 metres. The image above is a picture of Samil Lagoon.

Inner Kumgangsan

Several historical sites are to be found in this area which sprawls across the southwest of Kumgangsan. Below is a description of some of these:

>>>**Pyonhun Temple** - built in the 7th Century it had 20 buildings at its peak. It was then restored in the 18th Century under the Choson Dynasty.

>>>**Jongyang Temple** - built over 1400 years ago, relics of past Korean dynasties such as Silla, Koryo and Choson still remain here.

>>>**Myogil Statue** - an enormous Buddha Statue carved into a mountain. The dimensions of this Koryo statue are 15 metres high X 9 metres wide.

>>>**Podok Hermitage** - a single room hermitage that is suspended off a cliff.

Hiking in Kumgangsan

A wide variety of hiking options are available in Mount Kumgang. These range from short hikes of 45 minutes to hikes that last an entire day. The sample itineraries we use for both Outer and Inner Kumgang can be seen in our Kumgangsan section of our website:

www.north-Korea-travel.com/kumgangsan.html



Introduction

The Masik Ski Resort is located about 20 km west of **Wonsan** city. It is a luxury ski-resort and was built in less than a year.



One of the aims of the ski resort is to offer world-class facilities to attract more tourism to the country, though it is aimed too at Koreans.



Apart from a variety of slopes, the resort has a luxury hotel with swimming pool and sauna.



South of Pyongyang & West Coast 서부KTG®





Introduction

Renowned in Korea for its **ginseng**, Kaesong was the capital of the Koryo Dynasty. Initially thought by the US to be part of South Korea after the Korean War, the old part of town was preserved and coming here offers us a rare chance to see an ancient Korean city.

We visit this city when going to the DMZ as it is 8 kilometres north of Panmunjom. We can stay overnight here and stay at a traditional **Korean Folk Courtyard Hotel** in the old part of town when we do so.

The drive from Pyongyang to Kaesong is approximately 2.5 hours long.

Koryo Museum

Located in a peaceful part of town, this was the first university on the Korean Peninsula dating back to 992. It now shows relics of the the Koryo Dynasty, the rooms separated by gardens and

courtyards. It is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Tomb of King Kongmin and his wife

King Kongmin was became king of the Koryo Dynasty in the 1350s. This is one of the best preserved tombs in Korea and shows much of its original state having undergone little restoration. It was named UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013. On the way to these twin tombs we will be able to see too those of many generals and officials of this period.

Tomb of King Wangon

It is closer to downtown Kaesong that that of King Kongmin and older but has undergone more restoration. King Wangon was the founder of the Koryo Dynasty. We actually drive by here when going to the tomb of King Kongmin.

Mount Janam

As we approach Kaesong the bronze statue of President Kim Il Sung can be seen atop of this hill. Mt. Janam offers spectacular views

of the whole city including the old part of town.

Concrete Wall

Approximately a 30 minute drive from downtown Kaesong, going here will allow us drive by small villages and see more of rural DPRK. The Concrete Wall is allegedly a wall built by South Korea that crosses the whole Korean peninsula and stands just behind the South Korean side of the DMZ. A KPA officer will explain with diagrams what this consists of and we will be right by the no man's land consisting of fields and trees that make the DMZ.

Accommodation

When we stay overnight in Kaesong we do so at a traditional Korean Folkloric Courtyard Hotel located in the old part of town. The **Minsok Hotel**.

It is also possible for us to stay at the **Janamsan Hotel**.





DMZ (Panmunjom)

This is considered by many one of the highlights of a trip to DPRK. The first and only living symbol of the Cold War, the Joint Security Area is where North and South Korean soldiers stand literally a few feet away from each other and where the line that has kept the Korean Peninsula divided for over 6 decades is ironically marked by a thin concrete slab which's symbolic thickness is far beyond words.

We will be escorted by a **DPRK WPA soldier** who will show us where the **Korean War Armistice** was signed in 1953 (a peace treaty has not been signed to this day).

We will eventually be driven to a monument with President's Kim Il Sung's last signature where he expressed his desire for national reunification and then set to the **Demarcation Line** itself. We will be able to enter one of the blue negotiation rooms. These rooms run across the line itself; half of each room being located in South Korea the other half on North Korean soil (we will in fact be literally in South Korea though the door leading to South Korea is of course locked).



Introduction

Sariwon is the capital city of North Hwanghae Province. Located in between Kaesong and Pyongyang, we usually arrange trips here after having visited the ancient capital of the Koryo Dynasty.

The city is a lively one, renowned for its folk village, **Makoli (막걸리)** a low % alcoholic beverage and the buddhist temple of Sonbung in Mount Chongbang, and home to 10 universities.

Folk Village

Showing a variety of model pavilions of ancient Korea, wall maps explaining the different kingdoms on the Korean Peninsula throughout history as well as home to a history museum, this area will be of interest to those who would like to have an overall understanding of the peninsula's past.

Mount Kyongnam

Located just behind the folk village, if you walk up here you will have impressive views of the whole city and the area that surrounds it.

Folk Street

Walking here will allow us see Korean getting by their daily lives. There are several bars here called **Suljib in Korean (술집)** where we can enter and try beverages with locals. Games in the street tend to be held here too, and we will of course be more than welcome to join in.

Mount Chongbang

Just outside the city, this peaceful mountain is renowned for its beautiful landscape that attract Korean painters and for being home to several historical relics such as a Songbul Temple and the mountain wall and gates.

Songul Temple

A local monk will guide us around this buddhist temple which was initially built in 898 and rebuilt during the Koryo dynasty. This offers us a great chance to talk to a monk about buddhism in DPRK.

Accommodation

When staying overnight in Sariwon we stay at the March 8th Hotel (named after International Women's Day. water can be irregular though hot water usually runs in the morning and evening

which is when we will be in the hotel.





Haeju

Haeju has traditionally been an important trading city. It is the capital of South Hwanghae Province and offers travellers a rich combination of ancient sites and scenic beauty.

Haeju City

The Central Square has a bronze statue of a younger President Kim Il Sung with some hills in the background, while many murals portray his achievements. Foreign tourists seldom come to this part of Korea.

Sokdamgugok

A visit here offers a relaxing and peaceful experience. Consisting of nine valleys full of streams, natural pools and ancient sites including temples and lecture halls from the Choson Dynasty, this is an ideal place for history enthusiasts.

Mt. Jangsu

Referred to by Koreans as the Kumgangsan of Hwanghae, this mountain has splendid views of valleys, a lake and its surrounding hills. Two temples, Hyonam and Myoun, are located here.

Mount Suyang

The highest peak here is Sollyu Peak which is 947 metres high. This mountain boasts a fortress built in the Koguryo Kingdom which lasted until 668 AD. The fortress spreads more than 5 kilometres and we can arrange hikes on the wall where military sites used by generals in the past can still be observed.

Mount Suyang is nationally renowned falls that plunge down almost 130 metres.

Kyenam Farm

Also known as the goat farm, this massive complex is located in Sinwon country. A visit here (usually on the way to Sinchon) will allow us have a greater understanding of different farm types and systems in the DPRK.

Accommodation

The Haeju Hotel is located by the Central Square. Conditions are basic though the views of the city centre are fantastic.

Sinchon

This county level town is mainly known for hosting the **US War Atrocities Museum** which shows the war crimes the DPRK states that were committed by the US in the beginning of the Korean War. The drive here is an interesting, though bumpy, ride as we will go through remoter, less visited parts of country.

The museum is used for educational purposes mainly, though foreigners can also visit. The museum's main building shows tools used to torture people, paintings depicting scenes and very detailed explanations.

There is a barn outside the main building and we are explained about the atrocities committed there.

Please note that this museum is **very graphical**.



Farmer in Sinwon County, South Hwanghae Province, DPRK.

©www.north-korea-travel.com



Sinchon Museum, South Hwanghae Province

Nampo

This major port city is located on the west coast of DPRK. The ride from Pyongyang takes approximately 50 minutes.

Youth Hero Highway

We will drive on this multilane highway that was built by university students in the end of the 1990s.

Chongsan Cooperative Farm

Before arriving to Nampo we can visit this farm where farmers work and live with their families. Walks around the field, the farm's cultural centre and a farmer's house or the famers' children school is usually arranged when going here. Cooperative farms were a common feature of socialist and communist countries.

West Sea Barrage

This impressive 8 kilometre long structure was built from 1980 to 1985 and is mainly used to separate the West Sea of Korea from the Taedong River, therefore avoiding floods. President Kim Il Sung and former US President Jimmy Carter visited this site in 1994.

Orphanage

Centre used to take care of children with no parents as well as triplets. Interestingly, Koreans with triplets are offered special assistance by the government.

Factories

Given its strategic location, Nampo has a large number of companies and factories. There are several factories that can be visited by foreigners including the **Friendship Glass Factory** (Chinese and DPRK JV), The **Chollima Heavy Steel Factory** and the **Water Bottling Factory**.

The Thaesong Golf Course

Professional Golf Course with 18 holes that spreads over 7 kilometres. Golf games can be arranged as part of a private trip.

Waudu Pleasure Ground

Located 4 km away from Nampo, it provides visitors with a mixture of lush hills, cliffs and pines approaching the seafront.

Mount Kuwol

A region known for its landscape and historical sites. It became a national preservation area in DPRK 4 decades ago and listed as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2003. A trip here can be combined after staying in Nampo or when visiting Haeju and Sinchon. Its highest peak rises more than 950 metres high.

Woljong Temple

Initially built in the mid 800s, and then rebuilt in the Choson Dynasty.

Samsong Temple

This was built in order to render service to Tangun (the founder of the first kingdom on the Korean Peninsula).

Mt. Kuwol Fortress

Built in the Koguryo Dynasty it spreads for over 5 km.

King Kogukwon's Mausoleum

Mural painting built in the Koguryo Dynasty in the mid 4th Century.

Cycling Routes

We can arrange cycling routes from Pyongyang to Nampo (35 km) going on the Youth Hero Highway. It is also possible to arrange a cycling route in the Mt. Kuwol region (10 km ride) and it is possible to make this a two day cycling event. Please contact us for more information.

Accommodation

When staying overnight in Nampo we do so at the Ryanggang Hot Spa Hotel. This complex is located in the outskirts of town. Each room has its own natural spa tub which provides salty water with allegedly health benefits. There is too an option of having clam BBQ after dinner.





Introduction

A drive of approximately 2.5 hours northeast of Pyongyang takes us to a bucolic part of DPRK, Myohyangsan, meaning Fragrant Mountain in Korea.

The International Friendship Exhibition Centre

This consists of two buildings holding hundreds of thousands of gifts presented to the country's Leaders as well as to Kim Jong Suk, mother of General Kim Il Sung and wife of President Kim Il Sung, referred to in DPRK as Mother Kim Jong Suk. Apart from being an impressive site, these buildings exemplify the extent to which the country's leaders are respected and worshipped. Perhaps amongst the most impressive gifts is a train given by Stalin to President Kim Il Sung. We used to be required to cover your shoes with upon entering the buildings in order to avoid causing any scratches and dirtying the marble floors though this has changed recently.

Hikes and walks around the area

We can arrange walks in Hyangsan Village and hikes around the mountain. This is usually scheduled when staying overnight in Mt. Myohyang. Longer walks around the Manpok Valley can also be arranged.

Ryongmun Cavern

Impressive network of caves located underground.

Pohyang Temple

A medieval buddhist temple that dates back to the 900s. The temple is a close walk away from the International Friendship Exhibition Centre and has undergone reformation several times.

Accommodation

>>>Hyangsan Hotel

After having gone extensive reparation, The Hyangsan Hotel is the only 7* Hotel in the DPRK and the most luxurious one in the country. We can arrange accommodation here as part of our **Exclusive Private Tours**. Please do contact us for more information.



>>>Chongchon Hotel

Three storey hotel. We use this in in our standard trips when staying overnight in Mt. Myohyang. Conditions are the equivalent of the First Class Hotels in Pyongyang.





Introduction

Although we have arranged for travellers to stay overnight in Pyongsong in the past, this city was only opened to tourism in 2013 which is when we arranged our first visit to sites there. This mining city is only a 30 to 40 minute drive north of Pyongyang. Given its proximity to the capital, this city of around 300,000 is referred to as a **Satellite City of Pyongyang**.

Central Square

The Central Square in Pyongsong has a large bronze statue of a young President Kim Il Sung.

History Museum

Right by the square, this museum has a large title with the words “일심단결” that means “Single Unity” and literally translates into “One United People’s Heart”. The characters have the Workers’ Party of Korea symbol in the middle. This consists of a hammer, a sickle and a brush.

Mother Kim Jong Suk High School

The Pyongsong Number 1 High School is named after the mother of General Kim Jong Il and wife of President Kim Il Sung, the DPRK revolutionary Heroine Kim Jong Suk, referred to in Korea as Mother Kim Jong Suk. The school’s headmaster will show us around

the school facilities, including an area exposing inventions made by the students. We will be able to join in an English class where we are all welcome to speak to the students if we wish.

Paeksongri Revolutionary Site

This is where the country’s most important university, Kim Il Sung University, was transferred to during the Korean War (1950-53).

Paeksong Food Factory

Rare chance to visit a DPRK factory and the local staff working in it.

Accommodation

When arriving in Pyongsong in the afternoon or going further north to Mt. Myohyang, we may stay overnight at the local hotel in Pyongsong, **The Jangsusan Hotel**. The conditions here are basic but good. There are several entertainment facilities.



Northern Region 북부

KTG®





Introduction

Mount Paekdu is a sacred place for Koreans, both in the North, the South and abroad.

This volcanic mountain is considered the cradle of Korean civilisation. The founder of the first Kingdom in Korea, **King Tangun**, is said to be the son of a god, god Hwanung, and of a bear turned woman. Hwanung, the son of god Hwanin, descended from heaven to Mount Paekdu to instil moral values to humans.

During his stay in Mt. Paekdu, Hwanung was approached by a **tiger** and a **bear** who asked him to turn them into people. Hwanung agreed under the condition they each stayed in a cave 100 days having only garlic and plants. The bear endured the 100 days and was turned into a woman whereas the tiger abandoned its quest after 21 days. They newly turned woman could not find a husband and prayed to Hwanung to provide her with one. Moved by her prayers he decided to temporarily turn into a

man and marry the woman. Together they had Tangun, the founder of the first Korean Dynasty (**Kojoson** also spelled **Gojoseon**).

Political Importance

Mt. Paekdu is the birthplace of General Leader Kim Jong Il and where President Kim Il Sung fought against the Japanese together with his wife Heroine Kim Jong Suk (mother of Leader Kim Jong Il).

Secret Camps & General Kim Jong Il Native House

Base used by President Kim Il Sung in the anti-Japanese struggle. The native home of General Kim Jong Il is also located here.

Samjiyon Grand Monument

A giant bronze statue showing a younger President Kim Il Sung. There a sculptures of revolutionary soldiers on one side of the

impressive monument and a giant torch on the other.

Lake Chon

Meaning Heaven lake, this is the lake in the crater of the volcano which can be visited by cable car.

Samjiyon County

This is where we stay overnight. The town's houses are somewhat like from a movie depicting a ski resort in Switzerland.

Ponchobo Revolutionary Site

Village where the anti-Japanese Korean Forces beat the Japanese forces in 1937.

Rimyongsu Waterfall

Unique falls with water originating from Lake Chon. The fall offers interesting views and never freeze in winter.



Introduction

The cities of Rajin and Songbong combined are known as "Rason." This **special economic zone** borders **east Russia** and **northeast China** and is one of the least visited places by Westerners in North Korea. This area is pioneer in economic experiments (it was the first area to have a mobile phone network) and is home to, to the surprise of many, several **DPRK-US** joint ventures.

Monuments of the Sun

Giant portraits of the Leaders

Rajin Golden Triangle Bank

Foreign currency is exchanged here.

Rajin Port

Korean, Russian & Chinese ships are anchored here as is too the famous **Mangyongbong Ship** which transported Koreans from Japan in the 1960s & 1970s to Wonsan.

Rajin Kindergarten - children's performances are held here.

Shoes & Textile Factories - Joint venture factories.

Chujin beach

We usually stay here to relax after a long day and make some kimchi on the beach.

Taehung Seafood Processing Factory

Travellers can see how seafood is processed and try some too.

Sungjondae Historical Site

Dedicated to Admiral Yi Sun Si; national hero, inventor of the Turtle Battle Ship and one of the best admirals in world history.

Sonbong Revolutionary Site

Point where President Kim Il Sung re-entered Korea after Liberation from Japan.

Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia Flower Greenhouses

Exposition of the flowers named after the Leaders. Seeds are also sold here.

Foreign Language School

Chance to speak to students in English.

Art Gallery

You can see and purchase locally produced art.

Pipha Isle

Fantastic in the summer to have some fresh seafood by the beachfront. We can also take a boat ride and see **sea lions** in their natural habitat.

Rajin Market

A visit here gives you the chance to buy at a Korean market and haggle with vendors.

Emperor Casino

Casino initially opened attracting Chinese travellers, located by Pipha Isle.

Accommodation

>>>Bipagak Hotel

Consists of three separate compounds. Has great views of the Pipha Islet and the Casino Hotel. It has a luxury compound area too and is the best hotel.

>>>Chujin Tourism Hotel

Front line of the beach. A morning stroll by the waterfront is strongly recommended.

>>>Namsan Hotel

Located in Rajin city centre near the main square.



Extension Tours

KTG®

Introduction

We offer extension tours both within the DPRK and in China. Travellers can for example join one of our scheduled group tours and then stay longer in the DPRK and visit any parts of the country opened to tourism.

Sinuiju & Dandong

Other extension options are available just before you leave or enter the DPRK and on the Chinese side of the border.

We can offer extension tours all over China, including Tibet, but will only list here information about the Korean border city of Sinuiju, the Chinese border city of Dandong and the Chinese Korean Autonomous Prefecture of Yanbian, as they are an easy stop for those entering or exiting North Korea by train.





Introduction

Sinuiju is just across the **Yalu River** from the Chinese city of **Dandong**. Only a few hundred metres separate two entirely different worlds; two worlds connected by the **Friendship Bridge**.

Sinuiju receives many Chinese tourists, but it is a destination seldom visited by Westerners. Those entering or exiting the DPRK by train will go through customs at Sinuiju. We are proud to be too **one of the first agencies** to arrange trips to the town of **Dongrim** which is 48 km south of Sinuiju.

Grand Monuments

Giant Bronze Statues of the Leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. This point used to have a bronze statue of a younger President Kim Il Sung.

Eternity Tower

Built in the memory of the Leaders, it is located across the street from their giant portraits.

Art Gallery

A truly fascinating collection of DPRK propaganda art. You can have your portrait sketched for 20 Chinese Yuan by a local artist and purchase beautiful artwork depicting life in Korea.

Cosmetics Factory

Chance to see how soap and cosmetics products are made. This is a major national company.

Dongrim Town

A 1.5 hour drive from Sinuiju through fields and villages hardly ever seen by any foreigners will take you to this town where we are amongst the first to be able to arrange tours. A hike to the local waterfalls is a must here.

Ponbu Kindergarten

Famous around the whole country for having many students in the past who took part as the youngest participants in the Mass Games. There are performances from children and teachers here every day.

Folk Park

Popular destination for newly weds. Offers great views of the whole city and of Dandong.

History Museum

Built in the 1950s, it explains the history of Korea from pre-civilisation until modern times.

Sinamri Cooperative Farm

One of the main producers of rice in the DPRK. It is located in between Sinuiju and Dongrim.

Dongrim Waterfall No.1

The waterfalls themselves are not that impressive in the non-rainy season, though the hike there is beautiful.

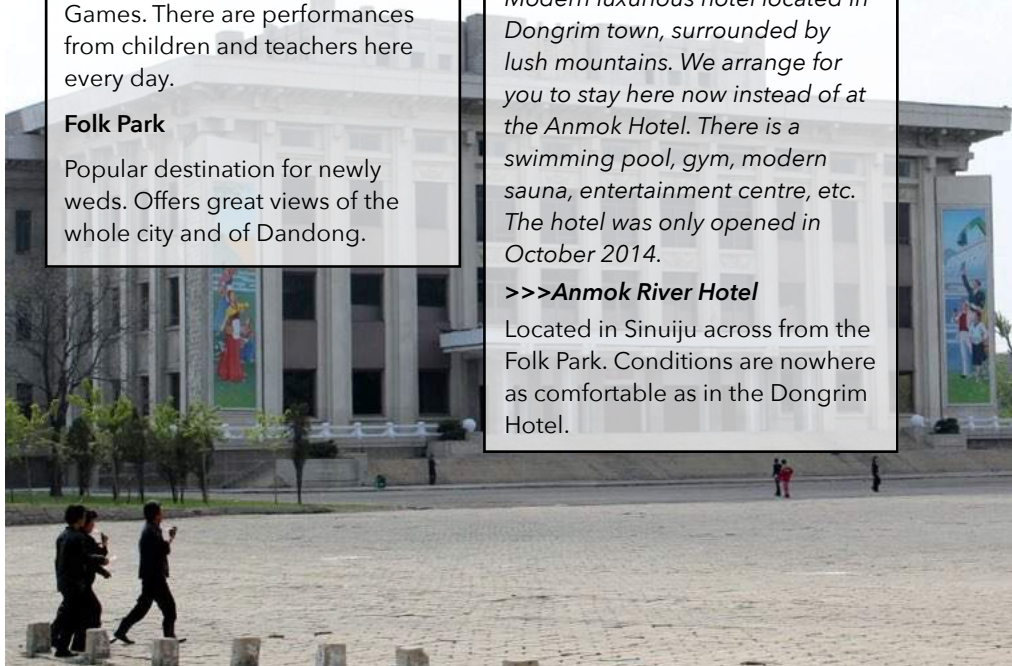
Accommodation

>>>Dongrim Hotel

Modern luxurious hotel located in Dongrim town, surrounded by lush mountains. We arrange for you to stay here now instead of at the Anmok Hotel. There is a swimming pool, gym, modern sauna, entertainment centre, etc. The hotel was only opened in October 2014.

>>>Anmok River Hotel

Located in Sinuiju across from the Folk Park. Conditions are nowhere as comfortable as in the Dongrim Hotel.



Introduction

Dandong is across the Yalu River from Sinuiju. We arrange one and two night extensions here for those entering or exiting the DPRK by train. If you are a US citizen we can arrange a tour here if you fly from Pyongyang to Shenyang as US citizens are currently not able to enter or exit the DPRK by train.

Broken Bridge

This was destroyed by the US during the Korean War. The bridge extends to half of the Yalu River and the broken part has not been reconstructed by the DPRK.

River Cruise

Chance to approach the DPRK by boat and see the shores of Sinuiju and its port.

Statue of Chairman Mao

Giant statue of Mao Ze Dong located in front of the train station.

Tiger Mountain Great Wall

North of Dandong this is the furthest eastern Great Wall in China. Only a narrow stream separates it from the DPRK.

Korean War Museum

Shows the Chinese version of the Korean War and holds original military vehicles and weapons used, including a large variety of US equipment captured by the Chinese.

DPRK Restaurant

There are several DPRK run restaurants in Dandong. Waitresses come from the DPRK and performances are held at 6.30 pm.

Hekou Village

Located around one hour north of Dandong, this village was used as an entry point by the Chinese soldiers during the Korean War. There is too a broken bridge as well as a statue of Mao Ze Dong's son who perished in the Korean War.

Boat ride at Hekou Village

You will be able to take another boat ride seeing a local village close up as well as some old factories.

Taiping Wan Dam

This is a joint project between the DPRK and China. The views of the Korean side with giant propagandistic slogans are indeed something to see.



Tiger Mountain Great Wall

Broken Bridge

DPRK Restaurant

Hekou Village

Introduction

The Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture borders the DPRK Special Economic Zone of **Rason**.

We can offer extension tours in Yanbian. Visiting this unique place of China, where the official languages are both Korean and Chinese Mandarin, offers travellers an insightful view of this unique region. We work too with **Yanbian University** to help introduce this region to foreigners.

Yanji

Capital of Yanji. There is a high percentage of Korean Chinese here. The city boasts several nightclubs, the famous **Mao Er Mountain** and is probably the Chinese city with most **coffee shops** per habitant. There are too several **DPRK run restaurants** which serve amazing food and put on the most impressive musical performances.

Hunchun

Fascinating corner of Yanbian where Chinese, Russian and Korean cultures mesh together. The borders of the three countries meet at the village of **Fang Chuan (防川)** which is around one hour away. We usually enter Rason in the DPRK from Quanhe which is a 40 minute drive away, though we can enter from Tumen too. This city

of 300,000 receives thousands of Russian tourists and businessmen every year.

Tumen

Located across from the DPRK city of Namyang, this city of around 50,000 offers great views of the DPRK. It is also possible for you to start your Rason tour by walking over the bridge from Tumen to North Korea.

Helong

Small clean lively city where Korean is heard around more than Chinese, it is the closest point to the village of **Nanping** which is just across from the Korean mining city of **Musan**. It is also home to **relics** from the **Bohai Kingdom**.

Longjing

Only a 20 minute ride away from Yanji, the percentage of Korean Chinese is higher than in the prefecture's capital.

Dunhua

Probably the city with less Korean feel to it in the whole prefecture, but it hosts one of the biggest Buddhist monuments in northern China which can be seen from the train miles away.

Antu & Wangjing - county level cities. Wangjing has a higher concentration of Korean Chinese. In Antu Korean is not as predominant as in other areas of **Yanbian**.



Practical Information KTG®



How to Apply



How to apply for a trip with KTG

We will not need your original passport at any moment. In order to issue your visa we will need the following:

- (i) Filled in DPRK visa form
- (ii) Scanned image of your passport

Below: Street in Pyonganbuk Province



- (iii) Passport sized photograph (scanned or digital)
- You need to fill in a DPRK visa form that we will send to you together with instructions on how to fill it in.

Together with the form we will need a scanned copy of your passport and a passport photograph.

These documents can all be sent via email or fax (we will need a colour copy of your passport sized picture) 30 days before the tour date at the very latest.

You will need to specify if you would like your DPRK visa to be issued in China or in your home country if there is a DPRK embassy there. If issued in China your visa will not be attached to your passport and will be handed to you when you meet the rest of the group the day before departing to DPRK. We can also arrange for your travel documents to be delivered to your hotel.

If you would like us to arrange for your DPRK visa to be issued in your home country you will have to go to the DPRK embassy / consulate there a few days prior to the tour or send your passport there. We will inform you when you can hand in your passport.



Above: 9/9 National Day in DPRK

Once you send us these documents we will consider your booking to be a solid one. 35% of the total tour cost is to be paid at least 30 days before the tour departure date. The remaining can be paid directly in at our offices in Shenyang or in Beijing when meeting us.

The reservation payment can be made via bank transfer, credit/debit card online or at our offices in Shenyang, PayPal and/or AliPay. Any transfer charges are to be covered by customers. Customers will be sent an invoice stating the total amount due.

Cancellation Policy

If the customer decides to cancel the trip to the DPRK the following costs apply:

Number of days before departure to Korea	Amount of tour cost to be paid
Day of departure	100%
1 day	70%
2 - 10 days	50%
11 - 20 days	25%
21 - 30 days	10%
Over 30 days	0%

In the case of popular travel dates a non-reimbursable down payment may be required in order to guarantee transportation tickets. If this is the case you will be notified immediately.

A **full reimbursement** will be made if the DPRK cancels the tour or if for some reason a visa is not issued to the customer, though we cannot be held liable for any transfer costs.

DPRK Visas

These can be collected in your country of residence if there is a DPRK embassy there or in China.

In the **very unlikely** event that a visa application is denied we cannot be held liable for any costs incurred by customers travelling to China. A **full reimbursement** of any payment made regarding the DPRK tour will be made though we cannot cover any transfer costs.

Please bear in mind that DPRK visa denials are extremely unlikely if you are not a journalist, photographer, writer or related to the media (please see below for more details). However, we recommend travellers to book reimbursable flights to China or have

insurance that will cover their flights in case a visa may be denied or in case the DPRK closes its borders during the tourism season. At the end of October 2014 for instance a 21 day quarantine was established because of fears of ebola. As a result all agencies had to cancel their trips to Korea.

China Visas & 72 Hour Visa Free Policy

Please bear in mind that if not using the 72 hour visa free policy, you will need a Chinese visa that will let you enter China. If not using the visa free transit policy upon arrival in China before and after your DPRK tour you will need a double entry. We can provide you with the necessary supporting documents in order for you to obtain your double-entry visa.

It is possible to apply for a **Chinese visa in Pyongyang** but not recommended as the embassy may be closed if there is a Chinese or Korean holiday.

It is now possible for citizens of over 50 countries to enter China visa free if staying in transit under 72 hours and entering by plane from abroad via Beijing, Shenyang and Shanghai amongst other cities. If you exit the DPRK by train you will need to use an entry in your Chinese visa.

If interested in this option you are kindly asked to contact your closest Chinese embassy/consulate and have them confirm that citizens of your country are eligible to enter visa - free on one or both legs of your trip to China. You should also confirm with your airline company that your scanned DPRK visa image (in case of having it issued in China) and e-ticket confirmation for your flight to Pyongyang will suffice in order for them to let you board the plane.

If going without a China visa you will need to show the guides in Korea evidence of your flight out of Beijing once you leave Korea so please print your e-ticket or flight confirmation before going to Korea.

Itineraries

We submit itineraries to the DPRK tourism authorities based on their advice and our years of experience in travelling to Korea.

We always try to ensure that these itineraries are as the ones customers see. However, the final decision of itineraries is made by the DPRK tourism authorities and is also based on local circumstances in Korea. If there are any variations in the actual itinerary we cannot be held liable.



Travel Insurance

Please make sure that you are insured before you travel to the DPRK.

We kindly request travellers to have insurance that cover any costs involving sickness, property loss, accidents, repatriation or any costs of this kind. Customers are responsible for having their appropriate insurance and are requested to be covered for medical expenses, possible repatriation costs, baggage claim, etc. Customers must also inform us if there are any medical conditions we should be aware of.



Bicycles are a common form of transportation in Korea

Journalists, Photographers & Writers

If you are a journalist, photographer, writer or related to the media, we will not be able to arrange your trip. If not sure about whether we can arrange your trip do please contact us and ask us. It is extremely important for us that customers provide us with accurate and true information and we will ask you to sign a declaration form stating that you are none of the above.



Mangyongdae Art Studio, Pyongyang

Tour Costs (i)

The following is included in our rates:

- Transport costs from China to the DPRK and back
- All local transfer costs - Accommodation in Korea (twin room)
- Three meals per day
- Guide service in English / requested language if other
- Entrance tickets to all tourist attractions



Korean Peoples Army Officer glancing across the 38th Parallel into South Korea

Tour Costs (ii)

The following is not included in our rates:

- DPRK visa fee (€50 if issued in China)
- Optional special events that may be staged such as the Revolutionary Opera (€20) or going up the Juche Tower (€5)
- Upgrading room to a single one (€35 per room per night if upgraded before hand, €40 per night if upgraded on the spot)
- Extra drinks/snacks (meals include one drink and bottled water)
- Meals on the train between Korea and China (approx. €5. You can also bring your own food)
- Tips to tour guides - a minimum of approx. €30 in total is expected if in a group. If on an independent tour we will advise you on how much is expected as this will depend on how many people you are and how many nights you spend in Korea.



Important Dates

There are several National Festivities in the DPRK throughout the year. Here are only some of them:

Date	Official Festivity
1st January	New Year's Day
16th February	Leader General Kim Jong Il's Birthday (1942)
15th April	Day of the Sun - Leader President Kim Il Sung's Birthday (1912)
1st May	May Day International Workers' Day
27th July	Victory Day
15th August	National Liberation Day (1945) - Liberation from Japan
9th September	Day of the Foundation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1948)
10th October	Day of the Foundation of the Workers' Party of Korea (1945)
27th December	Day of the Promulgation of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK (1972)

They are mostly celebrated with **Mass Dances** where thousands of locals dance. Travellers will have the chance to join them. It is also common for locals to gather for dancing events and activities on weekends.

Handy Tips

Getting along well with your **Korean guides** is extremely important as it will allow for greater flexibility during the trip and for travellers to know more about the guides and life in Korea. It will make the trip more enjoyable for everyone. Please read the following section carefully for tips that will help you when in Korea.

KTG Western staff members have known the guides for almost a decade and we enjoy excellent relations with them. This section is most important if you are going on an independent trip and do not have one of our Western staff members accompany you.

Bring something from your home country

We strongly recommend giving your guides & driver something after checking in at the hotel when you



arrive as this will not only make them happier but allow for greater bonding with them. Souvenirs from your home country or where you will be departing from will be fine. If not, you can also purchase a small something from the hotel. If you are fine with giving cigarettes, men normally like tobacco, (a box of 10 packs ranges

from €7 to €15) and women like facial cream and chocolates (these are around €5). Soldiers at the DMZ and at the Concrete Wall like cigarettes too. Many groups decide to buy a box or two between everybody.

Tips

We recommend each person is expected to give a minimum of €30 tip in total at the end of the trip if going on a group tour. Expected amounts will vary for individual tours. We always encourage travellers to tip as much as they like as this reflects travellers' satisfaction with the level of service provided.

Coffee breaks

The guides & driver will appreciate it if you invite them to a coffee or a drink when you are having one. This is especially the case with your driver when going on long



routes e.g. when you go to the DMZ. It is always a nice gesture.

Using money in DPRK

All your costs in North Korea are included except for optional activities such as going up the Juche Tower (€5), the entrance to optional events or any extra snacks / souvenirs. **Bank cards cannot be used** in the DPRK and there are **no ATMs**. If you wish to purchase souvenirs, extra snacks, etc, please take cash in hand. Euros, USD and Chinese RMB are accepted. It is hard to break big bills in the DPRK, so please do take small change. You may end up buying more souvenirs than what expected, so we recommend taking around €50 - €60 per night spent in the country excluding money for tips to your guides and driver.

International phone calls, express mail, other services

International phone calls can be made from the hotel though rates are high and can go up to €6 / minute depending on where you are calling. Express mail service is also available now as is trunk service. Internet can be used to send emails from the hotel computer (not your personal email account). We have been able to purchase **KoryoLink SIM cards** since 2013 and make international calls with our mobile phones. However, we only recommend this option for those regularly visiting the DPRK.

Dress code

If visiting the Kumsusan Memorial Palace men should wear shirt & tie as this is one of the most sacred places in the DPRK. Ladies should wear smart casual clothes. You cannot wear jeans, shorts, trainers, flip-flops, chew gum, etc when there.

Other than that it is fine for you to wear clothes you are



The Kumsusan Memorial Palace the most sacred place in the DPRK

comfortable in when travelling to other places in the DPRK.

DPRK Profile

The official name of the country is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

After decades of Japanese colonial rule, the Korean peninsula was divided into two at the 38th Parallel. Today, over 60 years later, the Korean peninsula remains divided with two completely different systems.

The North is a strongly military socialist state, where interaction with foreign countries is very limited and all is under control of the central government whereas the South is a capitalist nation.



Korean Workers' Party Foundation Monument



History, politics & sensitive topics

Some aspects of these in the DPRK may be different from what we may have been taught. Please always be respectful towards the country and to what you are told. If asked to talk about what you have been taught in your country or what your opinions are, feel free to do so, but without being disrespectful or critical towards the regime. Korean people are extremely friendly to foreigners and they are too very proud of their nation.

We will **fully brief you** before your trip to Korea.



General Kim Jong Il History lesson at a Kindergarten in a farm, Pyongyangnam Province

Situation on the Korean Peninsula

Relations between the North and South have varied these past years.

The past decade saw the first visits of South Korean presidents to DPRK after Kim Dae Jung and Roh Moo-Hyun visited Pyongyang in 2000 and 2007 respectively.

South Korean tourists were allowed to visit Kaesong and Mt. Kumgang and South Korean companies started operating in the Kaesong Industrial Complex.

Inter-peninsular relations have cooled down after the more conservative South Korea president, Lee Myung-bak, stepped into power in 2009 and these past few years have seen tensions increase on the peninsula, especially when joint military exercises between the US and South Korea are held each year near the DPRK border, though both parties frequently usually resume talks.

